(142)

(N4)

AN ACT

Appointing a Fast throughout the vvhole Kingdom

OF

SCOTLAND.

CHARLES, by the Grace of God, King of Great *Brittain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, To all and ſundry Our Lieges and Subjects whom it effeirs, Greeting. Foraſmuch, as the Almighty God, in His moſt Wiſe and Righteous Providence, after the ſinfull abuſe of His moſt ſignal mercies of the bleſſed Goſpel, of Our Own and Our Subjects wonderfull Deliverance from the Yoke of Uſurpation and Bondage, by the almoſt Miraculous Reſtauration of Us to the exerciſe of Our Government, and of the long and mercifull Continuance of Our deſpiſed Peace and Plenty; Doth, by His Warnings and Judgements incumbent and impendent, manifeſtly diſcover His Anger and Diſpleaſure againſt the grievous Sins of this Kingdom; and particularly by the ſad and pinching dearth, whereby many indigent perſons and families are reduced to a ſtarving condition, and by the long and threatning Drought, the Lord, in His Righteous Judgement, having ſo long bound up the Clouds, making the Heavens Braſs, and the Earth Iron, thereby threatning Our Subjects of this Kingdom with the breaking of the Staff of their Bread, and with the dreadful plague of Famine: Which Diſpenſation doth with a loud voice call upon all ranks of people for ſpeedy and true Repentance, and the National expreſſion hereof by deep Mourning and ſolemn Faſting and Humiliation.

Therefore We, with Advice and Conſent of the Lords of Our Privy Council, do Ordain a day of Publick and Solemn Faſting and Humiliation to be keeped and obſerved by all the people of this Kingdom in the ſeveral Paroches thereof; Strictly Commanding and Requiring them upon that day, to ceaſe from all the Works of their ordinary Callings, and to repair to their reſpective Paroch Churches, and there make ſolemn Confeſſion of their Sins, and implore the Divine Mercy for the Land, by Praying, Mourning, Faſting, and ſuch other Devotions, as are requiſite and uſual upon ſuch dayes of Publick Humiliation: And more particularly, Humbly to Confeſs and Mourn for the great Neglect and Contempt of, and Diſobedience to the Bleſſed Goſpel, and the Ordinances thereof, and the great and lamentable increaſe and prevalency of *Atheiſm*, Profaneneſs, and Irreligion which is thereby occaſioned, and for the ſinfull undervaluing of the great Bleſſing of Peace ſo long enjoyed by Our Subjects under Our Governme: t. By all which, and many other crying Sins, the Lords Jealouſie and Anger are kindled, and His hand is ſtretched out againſt this Kingdom, threatning the Deſtruction of the Fruits of the Ground, the neceſſarie Proviſion for the Life of Man and Beaſt, that by ſerious Mourning for, and ſincere and hearty turning from theſe provoking Sins, the Lord may graciouſly pardon them and repent Him of the evil ſeemingly determined by Him, and moſt righteouſly deſerved by us, and may open the Clouds and grant the latter Rain in its due ſeaſon and meaſure, reſerving for us the appointed weeks of the Harveſt. And for this end and purpoſe, We, with Advice foreſaid, do ſeriouſly recommend to, and require the Arch-Biſhops and Biſhops, to be carefull that this Faſt be duely obſerved by the Miniſters in their reſpective Dioceſſes, as followes; To the Arch-Biſhops of St. *Andrews* and *Glaſgow*, the Biſhops of *Edinburgh*, *Dunkell*, *Brechin* and *Dumblane*, to cauſe it to be intimated in the ſeveral Paroch Kirks of their Diocies upon Sunday, the twenty fifth, and obſerved on Wedneſday, the twenty eighth of *July* inſtant; and the remanent Biſhops, whoſe Diocies are more remote, to cauſe it to be intimated on Sunday, the firſt of *Auguſt*, and to be obſerved the fourth of *Auguſt* next. And as to ſuch Miniſters, who, by reaſon of their diſtance from *Edinburgh*, cannot be ſo ſoon advertiſed, that they celebrate this Faſt upon the next convenient Wedneſday thereafter.

Given under Our Signet, at *Edinburgh*, the fifteenth day of *July*, and of Our Reign, the twenty ſeventh year, one thouſand ſix hundred and ſeventy five years.

Per Actum Dominorum Secreti Concilii.

Al. Gibſon, Cl. Scti Concilii.

God ſave the King.

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